

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

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EA-11 /143 W

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R 091414 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3771

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUGGART

UNCLAS BONN 3552

E. O.11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, WG

SUBJECT: BRANDT INTERVIEW IN THE NEUE RUHR ZEITUNG  
( PART I, MARCH 9)

REF: BONN 3340

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN CONNECTION WITH THE OPENING OF  
THE JUNGSOZIALISTEN ( SPD PARTY YOUTH ORGANIZATION)  
CONGRESS IN BAD GODESBERG, SPD NATIONAL CHAIRMAN ( AND  
CHACELLOR) WILLY BRANDT GAVE THE NEUE RUHR ZEITUNG  
A LONG INTERVIEW IN WHICH HE PLAYS DOWN THE POSSIBILITY  
OF SPLKITTING IN THE SPD, AFFIRMS THAT THE SPD NATIONAL  
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CONGRESS IN HANNOVER NEXT MONTH WILL SEE NO MAJOR POLICY CHANGES, AND REAFFIRMS THE NECESSITY FOR THE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN EUROPE. BRANDT'S COMMENTS ARE AIMED AS MUCH AT THE JUNGSOZIALISTEN AND ESPECIALLY AT JUSO MODERATE ELEMENTS AS AT THE GERMAN PUBLIC. THE SECOND PART OF THE INTERVIEW WILL BE PUBLISHED ON MARCH 10.  
END SUMMARY

2. UNDER THE TITLE " THE SPD IS ACTIVE AND HEALTHY-- I' LL SHOW THE FLAG IN HANNOVER," SPD NATIONAL CHAIRMAN WILLY BRANDT ENERGETICALLY COUNTERED ANY IDEA THAT THE SPD IS IN DANGER OF SPLINTERING OR DIVIDING. ANY PROBLEMS THAT THERE ARE, BRANDT SAID, ARISE OUT OF RECENT SPD GROWTH IN CONFIDENCE, VOTES, AND THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS. THESE ARE " GROWTH PROBELMS," HE SAID.

3. COMMENTING ON CURRENT DISCUSSION OF THE PARTY'S DRAFT LONG TERM PROGRAM, BRANDT SAID THAT FORCES EXTERNAL TO THE SPD ARE TALKING UP NATURAL DIFFERENCES TO THE POINT WHERE IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE SPD IS FACING DISSOLUTION. PART OF THIS, IT SEEMS TO HIM, IS NORMAL POLITICAL TACTICS. ANOTHER PART IS BECAUSE THERE IS " MUCH DUMB IGNORANCE" AT WORK.

4. LOOKING FORWARD TO THE SPD NATIONAL CONVENTION IN HANNOVER ( APRIL 10-14), BRANDT FORESEES NO IMPORTANT DECISIONS BEING TAKEN WHICH WOULD CONTRADICT THE SPD ELECTION PROGRAM OF 1972 AND NO DECISIONS AGAINST THE GODESBERG PROGRAM.

5. BRANDT SAID THAT ONE WOULD ALSO SEE IN HANNOVER THAT SOME GROUPS, INSTEAD OF A BALNCED FOREIGN POLICY, WANT TO RECOMMEND A ONE- SIDED OR AN ILLUSIONARY, UNREAL FOREIGN POLICY AND THAT THEY WOULD FAIL IN THIS ATTEMPT.

6. BRANDT EXPRESSED HIMSELF AGAINST A TURNING AWAY OF EUROPE FROM THE US AND UNDERLINED THAT IN HANNOVER, ONE WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO AMUSE ONESELF WITH THIS TOPIC. HE SAID, " WHOEVER PLACES IN QUESTION THE ALLIANCE, DESTORYS OUR DETENTE POLICY TOWARD THE EAST."

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7. BRANDT SAID THAT " NATIONAL EGOTISM MUST BE TAMED.

THAT IS TRUE FOR US, ALSO FOR OUR EUROPEAN PARTNERS AND FOR AMERICA. ONE HEARS OUT OF CERTAIN CIRCLES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC IN CONNECTION WITH THE CURRENCY CRISIS, THAT NO- GOOD WORD, NOW WE WILL MAKE THE GERMANS AND JAPANESE SWEAT. THIS IS NOT REPRESENTATIVE OF AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION. BUT THERE ARE THESE VOICES."

8. BRANDT SAID FURTHER THAT " ONE SHOULD NOT BE ASTOUNDED OR ANGRY IF CRITICISM HERE ALSO IS HEARD. WE WILL REALISTICALLY CORRECT IT. WE EXPECT THE SAME FROM OUR PARTNERS. THE THINGS THAT WE HAVE IN COMMON, WHICH BIND US, ARE SO FIRM THAT WE CAN ALLOW OURSELVES A CLEAR WORD SO LONG AS THOSE THINGS WHICH WE HAVE IN COMMON ARE NOT ENDANGERED. HERE ONE DRAWS A CLEAR BORDER."

9. AT ANOTHER POINT IN THE INTERVIEW, BRANDT SAID THAT " OUR FOREIGN POLICY IS ANCHORED IN THE WEST AND WITH THE WEST, WE CONCERN OURSELVES WITH IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST. I REMAIN ATTACHED NOT ONLY TO THE WELL KNOWN EUROPEAN COURSE BUT ALSO TO THE FIRM ANCHORING OF OUR POLICY IN THE WESTERN DEFENSE ALLIANCE."

10. THE SECOND PART OF THE INTERVIEW WHICH WILL APPEAR ON MARCH 10, WILL DEAL WITH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY. HILLENBRAND

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